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were surrounded by green fields and meadows, and that "the bleat of flocks and the ringing of sheep-bells could have been heard from the fields outside, while the play was in progress." He quotes Gerard as finding "a new kind of crowfoot" close to the "Theatre," as seeing the "adders toong" at Spitalfield, the wild mallow "on the left hand of the place of execution called Tyborne," saxifrage and many other flowers "neere about London;" while in the city itself he notes the gillyflower, daffodil, narcissus, primrose, lilies and roses of various kinds, and all the familiar fruit-trees. Indeed, Mr. Ordish finally concludes that "we are indebted for Shakespeare's observation of nature as much to London as to Stratford-on-Avon."

As the book is the outgrowth of lectures, one need not be surprised to find a touch of the lecturer in a somewhat conversational tone, a repetition of catchwords, an enumeration of various possibilities, as if to give the audience a share in the selection. There is an amplification and simplifying of thought to which one must resort who expects to carry with him a promiscuous group of hearers who have no time to think between the lines. This is only in the early pages; soon the author has forgotten that anyone is listening, and seems to write on purely for the pleasure that he takes in his subject.

It is a little difficult to know for whom the book is intended. The explanation that plays were first presented in inn-yards, and the careful description of the construction of the early theatres would seem to adjust it to the needs of the general reader; while there is much that is of value to the student, and many paragraphs that it will be no waste of time for the specialist to consider—and after all there is no law that a book should be limited to one class of readers.

Perhaps the book is hardly picturesque enough to leave definite scenes clearly impressed on the mind's retina; perhaps it is not systematized enough to serve as a Baedeker to the streets through which Shakespeare walked, and the houses and gardens and pastures green whereon he gazed; but it is an interesting, readable book, it brings together much information that has been scattered or only half known, and it carries the mind away from the more sentimental worship of the little town by the Avon to the more practical side of Shakespeare's life. One can well afford a hearty welcome to a book that helps us to realize Shakespeare as a man among men.

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Dēaf, Spīke, Tūpenny, Thrēpenny, etc.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—Some time ago I observed what appeared to me to be a coincidence in the short-

ening of the vowels in the words 'deaf' and 'spike.' The usual form of the latter in 'spike,' and its vowel has had the normal development from *i* to *a*. The form 'spīke' occurs in 'spick-and-span,' That the shortening took place in this conglomerate nobody would deny, and we are forced to find in this group some condition of shortening that does not exist in the word 'spike' alone. I find this same condition in the groups 'deaf and dumb' and 'deaf and can't hear,' the latter being with many people the regular predicate form instead of the simple 'deaf.'

In both cases the shortening must be very old, belonging to the time when the longs were *i* and *e* and not yet *a* and *i*. The shortening evidently falls under Morsbach §53; but Prof. Luick of Graz, has just put the whole matter of Morsbach §§53, 64, in a new shape. He has been so kind as to send me an outline ("Verh. d. 44. Vers. dtsch. Philol. u. Schulm." 142-144) of the paper he read at Dresden. The chief point of interest in this paper (which is soon to appear in full in *Anglia*) is the revelation of the fact that lengthening in open syllables which successfully attacked monosyllables in Old English times, and disyllables in early Middle English times, did not have any effect on trisyllables (and, doubtless, longer words); that is, the vowel in the stressed open syllable of a trisyllabic word not only did not lengthen (O.E. *sater-nesdæg* > M.E. *saterday*), but, if long, becomes short (O.E. *ærende* > M.E. *erende*; O.N. *fēlagi* > M.E. *fēlawe*). This must be regarded as a most welcome discovery. That it removes all my difficulty in 'spick and span' * and 'deaf and dumb,' will be seen at once. It is probably the explanation also of the shortening in 'thrēpenny,' 'thrēpence a piece,' later 'thrīpenny,' 'thrīpence'; 'tūpenny,' 'tūpence,' as well as in 'thirteen' < *þrēttēne* < *þrēotēne*, and in many other, hitherto unexplained, cases.

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CENTRAL DIVISION OF M. L. ASS.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—The committee of the Central Division of the Modern Language Association of America has accepted an invitation from the Faculty of the University of Nebraska to hold its next annual meeting in Lincoln, Neb. The dates selected are Dec. 27-29. Members wishing to present papers before this convention are requested to communicate with the secretary, at their earliest convenience.

H. SCHMIDT-WARTENBERG.
Secretary.

University of Chicago.

* For the *a* of *span*, see an article by me in the forthcoming number of the *Journal of Germanic Philology*.